Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Onam is a customary function which comes off every year.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Therefore, may I know, Sir, whether the failure to have sufficient stock to meet this contingency is not the result of a dereliction of duty on the part of the authorities concerned to look ahead and see that stocks are available for these important days?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* We had no stock in the State and we had to borrow from other Governments. The expected rice did not come. So there was delay. So, with the quantity at our disposal in most of the places we disbursed 3 days full rice rations for Onam. There was no dereliction of duty at all.

INCREASE OF RATIONS DURING "ONAM"

8. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they had issued orders to Fair Price Shops and Depots to issue three days' full rations before the "Onam;"

(*b*) if so, what was the object of the order.

(*c*) whether before the orders were issued they were pleased to ascertain the stock at the disposal of these shops;

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):*

(*a*) Yes. Orders had been issued to the Assistant Supply Officers and Deputy Tahsildar, Cranganur, to arrange for the issue of 3 days' ration before Onam if there was stock enough to meet the demands.

(*b*) The object of the order was to give facilities to the card-holders to enjoy the Onam as usual.

(*c*) Yes.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: അന്ന ചിറ്റൂർ താലൂക്കിലെ സ്റ്റോറിൽ എത്രപറ നെല്ല കിടപ്പുണ്ടായിരുന്ന എന്നു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്നു ഓർമ്മയുണ്ടോ?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* That does not rise out of this.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: കൊച്ചിയിൽ സ്റ്റാക്ക് ഇല്ലെന്ന പറഞ്ഞു എന്നാണ ധരിപ്പുള്ളു. അതുകൊണ്ടു പറയുകയാണു.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I cannot give the exact figure now. The excess quantity alone we can transport. We were expecting sufficient stocks to arrive from Madras or Sind and they did not come at that time.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: ഇഷ്യു ചെയ്യാനുള്ള സ്റ്റോക്ക് ഇല്ലായ്കയാലാണു വൈകിയതു എങ്കിൽ ആ അവസരത്തിൽ ചിറ്റൂർ താലൂക്കിൽ എത്ര പറ നെല്ലു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു വാങ്ങിയതു കിടപ്പുണ്ടായിരുന്ന എന്നു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്നു ഓർമ്മയുണ്ടോ?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It was not possible to move the entire stock from Chittur and distribute it in other areas throughout the State during Onam.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: ഓണക്കാലത്തു കൊച്ചി രാജ്യം മുഴവനും ആവശ്യമുള്ള നെല്ലു ചിറ്റൂർ താലൂക്കിൽനിന്നും അവിടത്തെ ആവശ്യം കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടേ കൊടുപ്പാൻ പാടുള്ളു എന്ന നിശ്ചയിച്ചതിന്റെ അർത്ഥം മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* For how many days, Sir, ration was as a matter of fact issued?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Most people got 3 days' full rice ration.

Mr. President: Order, order. It is not the time to give information.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know Sir, what exactly the quantity required was for meeting the full requirements of 3 days in the Vadakkancheri area which alone is the specific point raised here?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I want notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* The Government have, Sir, been given notice of the main question. Therefore, I am asking, Sir, whether the Government have had made enquiries to say that the Vadakkancheri shop required such and such quantity of rice, paddy and other rational food stuffs.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* We cannot issue to one shop alone. We cannot say whether the issue could have been made in regard to all the shops.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is there any question that you had some paddy in the neighbouring places to be distributed for Onam there and you have not done the distribution of the paddy that is available?

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Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: No.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Has the Government considered the desirability of giving extra ration during the Christmas?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: No.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Why? It is necessary.

PRICE OF PADDY—RAISING OF

9. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they are aware of the very disappointing results of harvest this year for the first crop;

(*b*) whether in view of the bad returns of agriculture and the consequent loss to the agriculturist the Government will be pleased to place the purchasing price of paddy on a level at least with the neighbouring State of Travancore?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The price of paddy was revised very recently by increasing the price to Rs. 1—6—0. per para.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: May I know, Sir, the price then prevailing in the adjoining places of Travancore according to Government control rates?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: The rate in Travancore was Re. 1—8—0 according to Travancore para which worths at Re. 1—6—10·6 pies according to our para.

DRAINAGE—ERNAKULAM AND MATTANCHERI—IMPROVEMENT OF

10. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Will Government be pleased to state whether they have any scheme for improving the drainage system of Ernakulam and Mattancheri?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The question of improving the drainage of Ernakulam and Mattancheri has engaged the attention of the Government. The preliminary investigation of the scheme has been completed. Further work on it has been postponed for the duration of the war.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Have the Government a fully prepared drainage scheme?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The investigation of the scheme has been completed and estimated and quantities also have been prepared. The cost had not been calculated and some minor details have to be completed.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know, Sir, for how many years has this drainage scheme for Mattancheri been pending with the Government?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: During the last 20 years. We have been taking up the improvement of the Towns of Ernakulam and Mattancheri steadily. We thought that a supply of drinking water was a much greater necessity in Mattancheri than the drainage and that also was a large proposition. We have now completed that work. And then we have taken the question of drainage and it is only recently that the expert came and the investigations completed. Before we actually decided on the question, conditions became difficult and so the scheme was postponed.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Thank you for the information. My question was for how many years this drainage scheme has been pending?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: It is not possible to say for how many years. According to me, it would have been pending with the beginning of civilisation.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: How many Diwans have dealt with the drainage scheme?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: I want notice.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know, Sir, when you came to office as Chief Engineer was the drainage scheme pending?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: It was not pending.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: How many years after you took charge did this scheme come up for consideration?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The scheme came up for consideration 6 or 7 years ago.

Mr. A. B. Salem *Mattancheri)*: May I know whether there was a special Engineer brought down to work out an under-ground drainage scheme in Mattancheri?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Yes. That was about 6 years ago.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know the name of the gentleman?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Mr. A. V. Rama Ayyar of Madras P. W. D.

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